

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RIYADH 00675 231244Z
ACTION MED-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SCS-06 CA-01 /023 W
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FM USLO RIYADH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 652
INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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KUWAIT FOR RMO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AMED, CASC
SUBJ: LOCAL MEDICAL FACILITIES

REF: (A RIYADH 634 (B) RIYADH 374 (C) RIYADH 533

1. USLO HAS RECENTLY CONFERRED WITH SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR AT KING FAISAL SPECIALIST HOSPITAL (KFSH) CONCERNING ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR NON-SAUDIS. INDIVIDUAL, AN AMCIT WHO WAS IN THE U.S. ON HOME LEAVE DURING ADMISSION ATTEMPT ON BEHALF OF FORMER AMBASSADOR BYROADE REPORTED REFTEL A, CONFIRMED THAT POLICY REMAINS AS STATED REFTEL B. ANY PERSON WILL BE ADMITTED ON REFERRAL REGARDLESS OF NATIONALITY, SO LONG AS ATTENDING PHYSICIAN CERTIFIES THAT LIFE, LIMB, OR SIGHT IS ENDANGERED.

2. HOWEVER, FURTHER DISCUSSION REVEALED THAT KFSH DEFINES "ATTENDING PHYSICIAN" AS THE SENIOR DOCTOR ON DUTY AT KFSH AT THE TIME OF REQUEST FOR REFERRAL ADMITTANCE. NEITHER THE DOCTOR TREATING AN INJURED OR SICK INDIVIDUAL NOR ANY KFSH DOCTOR OTHER THAN THE SENIOR PHYSICIAN ADMINISTRATOR ON DUTY CAN MAKE THE FINAL DETERMINATION

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OF MEDICAL SEVERITY.

3. THE ADMINISTRATOR FURTHER STATED THAT ONLY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE KING, CROWN PRINCE, OR FOREIGN MINISTER CAN IMPOSE EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE. RECE C HCGH-LEVEL SAUDI INITIATIVES WHICH DID NOT HELP AMB BYROADE WERE CITED AS PROOF OF THE INTENT OF KFSH TO ABIDE BY THEIR

POLICIES.

4. KFSH ADMISSIONS POLICY AS INTERPRETED BY THEIR
DEFINITION OF "ATTENDING PHYSICIAN" IS CONSIDERABLY
MORE RESTRICTIVE IN BOTH SPIRIT AND FACT THAN USLO
INITIALLY REPORTED. IT MAY HOWEVER REFLECT A SEVERITY
AND EXCLUSIVITY ANTICIPATED BY REFTEL C. EXCEPTIONS TO
THIS INCREASINGLY BROAD POLICY ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE
NUMEROUS WHEN THOSE CHARGED WITH DIAGNOSIS ARE ALSO
MOST RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THE "CLOSED DOOR".
GRANINGER

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Message Attributes

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